

# LLANCARFAN



LEGEND HAS IT THAT  
ST CADOC WAS AIDED BY  
A DEER WHEN HE BUILT  
HIS MONASTERY IN  
LLANCARFAN

# SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER 135

NOVEMBER 2007

### Announce Announcements, Local Events,

#### Society:

Tues 4 Dec Social Evening  
*Fri. 14 Dec Christmas Whist Drive*

#### Ladies Tuesday Club

Tues 18 Dec. Christmas Party  
Tues 15 Jan New Year Lunch

#### Baptisms, Deaths, Weddings, etc.

##### Baptisms:

17 June Emma Aoife Hockney  
(Granddaughter of Mary & Rhodi Grey)  
29 July William Llewellyn Price  
(Grandson of Beryl & Lewellyn Price)

##### Weddings:

7 July (Thomas Alan Lloyd (Moulton) to  
(Kelly Louise Lewis (Barry)  
7 July (Kevin Perkins (Moulton) to  
(Andrea Davies (Neath)  
Priest: Rev. Bill Barlow  
4 August Matthew Roger David Newton  
(Sunbury-on-Thames) to  
(Deborah Angela Price (Llancarfan)  
Priest: Archdeacon Bill Thomas  
15 Sept. (Thomas Rhys Jones (Nantgaredig) to  
(Philippa Ann Hunt (Llancarfan)  
Priest: Rev. Bill Barlow

##### Deaths:

28 June Arthur Lougher of Bonvilston  
24 July Fred Adams formerly of Llancarfan  
26 Oct. Peter Newton of Llanthryith  
26 Oct. Alan Hopkins of Cowbridge

**For church services over the Christmas period, please see end of newsletter.**

##### Contributions to the Newsletter to:

Ann Ferris, Fordings, Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3AD, by post until I am back in my own property or to Alan Taylor by email as below.

**Local Correspondent:** Alan Taylor, Windrush, Llancarfan, CF62 3AD or e-mail [a.j.taylor@btconnect.com](mailto:a.j.taylor@btconnect.com)

**Subscriptions/Membership Secretary** Audrey Porter, Millrace Cottage, Llancarfan, CF62 3AD

**Mailing Enquiries:** John Gardener, The Willows, Fonmon, CF62 3BJ. Tel. 01446 710054

**Chairman:** Mike Crosta, Pepperland, Llancarfan CF62 3AD Tel: 01446 781227

**Secretary:** Gwyneth Plows, 3 Showie Acre, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan. Tel: 01446 713533  
Llancarfan Society Administrative and Web-site:

e-mail: [llansoc@llancarfan.f9co.uk](mailto:llansoc@llancarfan.f9co.uk)

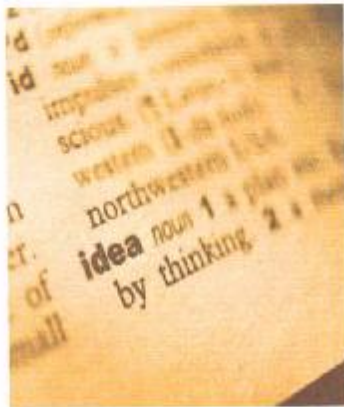
Web-site: [www.llancarfan.com](http://www.llancarfan.com) or  
[www.llancarfan.f9.co.uk](http://www.llancarfan.f9.co.uk)

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Wednesday 26th September we had European day of languages.

We learnt 5 different languages, taught by 5 different teachers.

Welsh was taught by deputy head teacher Mr Lewis, French by Madame Freeman, German by Mrs Shirley Lewis, who the school give many



thanks to, Dutch was taught by Mrs Lee Jones and finally we were taught Spanish by Miss Watkins. We had some fun and learnt some new phrases.  
by Georgia L and Clare D

## Sports

The Netball Team had an exciting match against Wenvoe on Wednesday 24th October. They won by 10-0 "Go Llancafarn!!!" It was their first win in only their second game.

A few weeks ago year 5 and 6 pupils from Llancafarn primary school took part in "We are the champions". They took part in the tug of war, swimming and obstacle race. Many schools took part in the competition and although the team won the obstacle race comfortably, were two points from reaching the final.

Llancafarn football team had their first football match a few weeks ago, losing to Peterston 4-1. William Matthews scored the goal. Coach Mr. Lewis said they played very well and man of the match was Harry Jackson.

During Autumn 1 Yr 5+6 had cricket coaching with Pete Hardwick. They played some good games, such as Commando Cricket and Goalie, and had a lot of fun. Now they can bowl, catch and run just like expert cricketers!

Well done to everyone who's represented the school.

by Sophie T, Harry J, Hannah G, Sam P and William M

## Pink Day

On the 26/10/07 at Llancafarn Primary School we had a "pink day" when everybody had to wear pink to raise money for breast cancer. At the end of the day year six had a fashion show and also everybody sang a song called "Lily the Pink". Everybody thought it was great. Some of the year six boys were even dressed like girls!!!

William T

## Class 5's Assembly

We did our assembly on communities, We talked about the communities we belong to-golf clubs, rugby clubs, the school, cubs and guides and the church. Lots of parents came, laughed in the right places and enjoyed listening. Some of the children were dressed in their "community's" uniform. Some of the class shared their prayers for our community.



## President's Page – Phil Watts

I will commence by wishing all our readers a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

My thoughts go back to the year 2000 when the bells of St Cadoc's Church were recast. Our chairman Mike Crosta had given me a cutting from the Daily Telegraph written in the Doctors column. The Doctor had written an article saying how therapeutic bell ringing is for young and old. One reader, an injured fireman, wrote that after taking up bell ringing his spine had straightened and his pelvis had improved and he was able to return to work. Bell ringing had succeeded where many operations had failed.

The Doctor further explained how the tugging on the ropes strengthened the forearms, relieved the symptoms of Repetitive Strain Injury and intense concentration keeps the brain alive.

Other readers had written to say how they had benefited socially from the cross section mix of bell ringers, and how they had made friends up and down the country through bell ringing.

My purpose in quoting the above from the Telegraph is that as those of you who live in the village will be aware bell ringing practice takes place on Thursday evening 7.30 to 9.00pm, and we would welcome anyone who fancies a 'tug' on the ropes.

We were told when the bells were recast that, on average, to keep a ring of six bells going we would need 16 ringers. At the present time we have a group of about 12, and this is only achieved with the aid of people from Penmark, Rhoose and Barry.

Philip Gammon, Norman Waite, Roger Harris or myself would be delighted to hear from you if, for your health's sake, you wish to take up bell ringing. You will also be making sure that the money spent on recasting the bells was well spent.

## Dear Members - Society Newsletter

Your Committee has been giving some considerable thought as to whether the Newsletter could be improved.

It is, of course, the shop window of the Society and exists to inform, entertain, and record the history of the village and surrounding area. It is completely dependent upon your contributions and would not exist without them. Please, therefore, do not hold back but send in the article you may have been thinking about.

We feel it important that we have as many of your views as possible as to the content and style, and the object of this letter is to seek your opinions. What do you like/dislike about the Newsletter? Please let us know what we could do differently or consider anew, such as events.

This is a more dramatic appeal for contributions to the newsletter; and we hope our readers will take this seriously.

Many thanks for your attention and continued membership.

**Mike Crosta**  
**Chairman**

**Phil Watts**  
**President**

--ooOoo--

**Newsletter by e-mail** - if you should elect to receive the Newsletter by E-mail, this would provide you with coloured photos where applicable, e.g. the fox in the willows was lovely in colour and really stood out well – it lost its appeal in black and white. It will save the Society money and members of the committee the time and energy of preparing the newsletter for the post. All it will take is an email to Alan Taylor on [a.j.taylor@btconnect.com](mailto:a.j.taylor@btconnect.com) or a phone call to 01446 781453.

--ooOoo—

The purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

## **Richard Edward 1817 -1880 Welsh Baptist Minister in Llancafarn from John Cann**

Graham Jenkins' article in August was a fascinating history of Bethlehem Welsh Baptist Chapel. Since it was originally written, I have been doing a lot of work on the descendants of Thomas David of Little Mill, Llanvithin. As luck would have it Thomas and Gwennllian's second daughter, Margaret, married Richard Edward in 1850, by which time he was an ordained minister in Bethlehem Chapel. With even greater luck, Brian James found several references to him in early Welsh Baptist publications. All were in Welsh, but Brian translated the short ones, and Non Evans kindly translated the major opus from "*Seren Gomer XXV (1904)*". This article, written by someone who knew him, is entitled "*Llancafarn & Richard Edwards*". It gives quite a bit of information on Richard, which I was able to include in a booklet on the Davids.

Below is the relevant extract, nearly all is from "*Llancafarn & Richard Edwards*".

According to the "*Seren Gomer*" article Richard Edward was born and bred, lived and preached in Llancafarn. Census data however gives his birthplace as Bonvilston, otherwise the facts in the article are likely to be correct. Richard was baptised by Mr Robert Pritchard at Bethlehem Baptist chapel (most likely nearby in the stream). This was sometime between 1829 and 1835. About 1839 Richard Edward started preaching as did Bassett Edward Thomas. When the existing ordained minister (Mr Robert Williams) departed for America they were joined in 1842 by Dr Levi Thomas an ordained minister. "*Bassett Edward Thomas was the organiser, Richard Edwards the man of feeling and Dr Levi Thomas was the one who made a crowd one*".

Richard Edwards was a ploughman or a gardener possibly the latter as in a poem is "*A blond haired man from Llancafarn / The son of the orchard during the day*". He and Bassett Edward Thomas, son of a farmer from Llanbethery, were both ordained joint

ministers of the Llancafarn Baptists in 1848 (also in *Y Beddiwr VII, 1848*). In 1850 "*Richard Edwards was considered wise to marry a young gentle woman, a member of the methodist chapel and in this area Mrs Edwards remained for the rest of her life, a handsome wife still, a good wife to the Minister of the Baptist chapel Llancafarn*".

"*On Sunday July 27 1851 Richard Edwards was preaching to a crowd of people on the bank of the river and Bassett Edward Thomas was baptising in the river.*" And in *Y Beddiwr X, 1851* - "*A respectable man and wife, Mr and Mrs Morgan, Fonmon, were baptised 27 July 1851 in the river near the chapel. Brother R. Edwards preached, and B. E. Thomas baptised them. There was a numerous congregation of every class.*"

But "*Rarely could Richard Edwards take part in the monthly Vale of Glamorgan meeting, as he was at home in his garden, content on the hill, digging in the valley, and threshing the abundance after the harvest*" (a metaphorical allusion to his faithful work in his own spiritual patch, as well as probably literally correct) "*But he did preach twice in the monthly meeting in Pisga, Pyle in November 1851*".

**Marmora the author of the article was David William Morris, a baptist minister then 80 years old. He visited Richard's house when he was 30. He says "In August 1856 I visited their house and Mrs Richard Edwards was very welcoming, but her husband was in Tondu." (where he was a minister for two years.) And finishes his article with a flourish - "It was in Llancafarn that Richard Edward died on March 25 1880, 63 years old. He was buried in the Baptist cemetery in Llancafarn. It is appropriate because he was Richard Edwards, Llancafarn born and bred, was a 'member', preached and was ordained there."**

NB from John Cann – His real surname was Edward, but the Marmora and The Y Beddiwr article use the surname of Edwards.

--ooOoo--

Everyone has a photographic memory. Some of us just don't have film.

## **Morris Price, Middlecross by Zena M Morgan**

I was delighted to read in the August Newsletter that my grandfather, Morris Price of Middlecross had had his alms plate returned to use. I vividly remember my grandmother's distress after being told that the inscription had been removed because it was much too hard to clean. Ironic when she considered the number of years she had been on the regular rota for cleaning the Church. I would like to thank the kind soul who found the plate and returned it to use.

I hope they can also find time to clean the ewer/urn on the font base. This was given on the occasion of my christening in 1929. It too was 'put away' for some time when it started to leak but was soon repaired and replaced by my parents.

There was also mention of the visitor's table. Would this, I wonder, be the old Pembroke table I remember from the front hallway at Middlecross, which my grandmother gave to the Church when they left Llanccarfafan?

Best wishes to you and all your team. It is a great day when the newsletter is delivered. A wonderful excuse to take a break and have another cup of coffee.

(Mrs Zena Morgan (nee Maureen Ould, daughter of Mary Price, Middlecross.)

(Newsletter Co-ordinator: So glad you enjoy the newsletter – if you have any more memories of your days at Middlecross, please share them with us.)

--ooOoo--

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take the time to look for it. For example, isn't it nice that wrinkles don't hurt.

A penny saved is a Government oversight.

How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you are.

## **Llanccarfafan Village Show 2007 'A Blooming Success' by Helen Embling**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2007 dawned fair, and heralded not only a fine day weather wise, but a very fine day for all who had worked so hard to bring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Llanccarfafan Village Show to fruition.



After weeks of preparation the marquee, erected adjacent to the hall, had, on Friday evening, opened to accept exhibits, and by 10.30am on Saturday morning, both the hall and marquee were a sight to behold. Despite the inclement and unseasonable weather in the 'run up' to the show, the majority of the 53 classes were well entered, and it was a credit to the organisers, that their choice of classes in the finely produce schedule, resulted in a high standard of entries.



These were the sentiments of the judges, who specifically commented on the obvious

enthusiasm of exhibitors, and their efforts in the presentation of their entries. This was a great incentive to our organisers, as the majority of the judges, who so kindly gave their time, have adjudicated at show at county level, and certainly 'know their onions'!

Having dealt with the application of the 'prize stickers', our judges were entertained at the School Hall, and at 2.30pm the doors opened at the hall, where not only could exhibitors and friends discover the fate of their entries, but enjoy refreshments and a convivial afternoon.



Following the success of the 2006 show, trophies, this year, were awarded to 'Best in Show Overall' in both the adult and junior sections. Mr Alan Taylor was the delighted recipient of the adult trophy, while Megan Weber was a worthy winner of the junior prize.

BBC television, has, in the past year, seen fit to transmit a series of programmes on the subject of village shows. What a pleasure it is to know, and be part of a 'real life' and very successful village show, which now looks forward to its third event, and for many more in years to come.

(Co-coordinator/Show Secretary: Have you entered exhibits in the show? What classes would you like to see in the schedule? As we hope to start preparing next year's schedule sometime in January, your comments and ideas would be much appreciated, and if you have some specific class you would like included, we should like to know.)

--ooOoo--

## **Letter from David Jenkins, of Burton Bradstock, Dorset**

My cousin, Robert Thomas, earlier this year, sent me a copy of an extract from your Llancarfan newsletter, consisting of extracts from the logbook of Llancarfan School. In it was mentioned Miss Charlotte Elizabeth Thomas being appointed in 1928 as a trainee bursar.

Charlotte, always known in the family as Betty, was my mother. She was born in The Farm at Llanbethery, and died, aged 90, in 2003, in Barry. Her early years, at Llancarfan School, were always very important to her, and she spoke of them with great affection.

Towards the end of her life, my mother wrote a number of essays, based on her childhood memories at Llancarfan school. In case it is of interest to you, I attach a copy of one of them. You will see that she refers to Mr Rhys Davies as headmaster, and also to his successor, Mr Idris Davies:

-----

## **Life in a Village School in the 1920s by Charlotte Jenkins nee Thomas**

At long last the day had arrived for my first day at school. I had been eagerly awaiting this day for many weeks. I left home happily with some older children from my village and set out on the 1½ miles to Llancarfan School.

The school was built in 1875 and stands on a hill over-looking the village with a grand view of the village nestling in the wooded valley. It has three class-rooms, "the Big-Room" for the seniors, the Middle-Room for stds 1, 2 and 3, and the Infants Class-room. There are three teachers – the Head-master, Mr Rhys Davies, loved and respected, who had been Head for 37 years.

I soon became familiar with things we met on the way to school. Not far from our village

was a grassy patch on which there usually stood a gypsy caravan. There were always children playing around and dogs waiting to be fed. On the steps was the mother feeding her baby, and we loved to peer through the open door to admire “the things that were ranged in order”.

Soon would come the clip-clopping of the oil-man and his horse-drawn van delivering paraffin oil (from Cowbridge). This was many years before the coming of Electricity and we still used paraffin lamps to light our houses. Often we met the coal-man’s lorry delivering coal to all the villagers.

On reaching the village of Llancarfan we would be greeted by Mr Buckley leaning on his stable-type door with his pipe hanging from his mouth and his “smoking-cap” on his head. He was our “shoe-repairer” and we took our shoes to him to be “tapped”. He had an invalid wife who sat in the front of the fire draped in a shawl and wearing a peaked cap as she rocked her life away. We usually took her some eggs or some home-made butter and she told us news of her grand children in Canada.

Next to Mr Buckley was the village smithy. Mr Lewis was always cheerful as he hammered on the anvil. He knew us all by name and often invited us in to warm ourselves by his roaring fire – and how we loved to watch him nail the shoes on to the great cart-horses.

The sound of his anvil still rings in my ears, as we heard it echo through the valley as we worked in our class-rooms.

Many of the villagers kept ducks (because of the river, I expect) and as we walked through the village there was usually a ‘column’ of ducks waddling towards the river, and they would slide down the bank and swim out of sight. I still wonder how they found their way home.

The ringing of the school bell told us to hurry and we soon found ourselves in our class lines

in the playground. Once in our class-rooms the day began with prayers and Hymn singing.

Tuesday and Thursday afternoons were given up to Needlework for the Senior girls and the boys worked in their garden ‘plots’ when the weather was fine – and had Handwork lessons when the weather was bad.

In my last few years at Llancarfan (before leaving for Barry County School) we had a Head-teacher who was very interested in Penillion singing and in learning these verses our Welsh vocabulary improved greatly. The girls dressed in Welsh costumes and we gave concerts, which were appreciated by the parents.

My years at Llancarfan school were very happy one and it took me a long time to get acclimatised to the great changes I had to meet at the large Barry School.

A few years ago the fashion among Education Authorities was to close village schools believing that they could not provide a large enough Education for a child. I prefer the view of Ronald Blythe, the author of “A Kenfield” who wrote in an article:

“The average village school is a place crammed with reality and imagination, shadows, and brightness, and a small one with a true teacher is about as good a start as anywhere for a Country child.

--ooOoo--

## **Obituary:**

### **Arthur Lougher of Bonvilston by Mrs Kathleen Lougher**

Sadly, Arthur passed away suddenly on June 28<sup>th</sup> whilst on holiday in Norfolk. He was born in Pennon Cottage, Llancarfan April 1923. His childhood was spent between his Grand parents in Cliff Farm and his Grand parents on his Mother’s side (Frances

Lougher) at the Fox and Hounds. The family later moved to Green Farm, Porthkerry and when he was 14 they moved to “Ty-Ishn” Farm, Heol-yr-March.

Arthur went to Llancarfan, Romilly and Rhoose Schools and on leaving at 14 went as an apprentice Carpenter with Arthur Jones & Sons, Cowbridge, and learnt his trade travelling to Cardiff to College to get his City & Guilds.

In 1942 he was called up and went into the Welsh Regiment and then transferred to the South Staffs Regiment. Later he was in action with the Chindits in Burma. He was in action in the jungle for three months and on coming out he spent three months in hospital in Deradun and a further three months in the Himalayas. When he recovered he was transferred to the Parachute Regiment in 1945. Passing out in Quetta. Flown home in 1946 and discharged in 1947.

On returning he went to work for E Turner & Sons and worked for them for 25 years. In 1974 he was offered a job as Clerk of Works in Atlantic College where he retired at 68 in 1991.

On retiring he took up Woodcarving making Love Spoons, which he showed in St Fagans and many Craft Stalls. He was hoping to show his woodwork in the last Village Show in Llancarfan, but unfortunately, it clashed with our holiday in Norfolk.

He spent many happy hours reminiscing of his childhood in Llancarfan, and my biggest regret is that he never put them down on paper to record in your Newsletter. He will be missed and remembered by all his family and friends. He truly was a gentleman and a great craftsman.

--ooOoo--

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.

### **Fred Adam, CBE by Mike Crosta, OBE**

Fred Adams was born on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and died on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the age of 90, after a long illness, which must have been distressing for him, Heather, his wife, and their family. The greatest part of his long life was illuminated by his qualities as a person, parent friend, and neighbour and by his long and successful career.

At the age of 13 he passed the equivalent of A levels and later obtained a degree in history at Trinity College, Cambridge.

His distinguished career in education culminated in his being the Director of Education for South Glamorgan and he received the high honour of a CBE for education in 1980.

He and Heather lived in Llancarfan for many years and made numerous friends with whom they remained in communication after having moved to Derbyshire. They were our neighbours in Llancarfan; along with their little dog, Toby, who was quite a character; of whom we have many fond memories.

--ooOoo--

### **Murder by Andrew Plant**

Mary Rees was murdered on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1755. The trial was held at the house of William Morgan of the Cross Inn, Llancarfan. Josiah Hughes of Penmark was hanged at either Aberthaw or Tair Erw Josiah.

I wonder where was the house of William Morgan – but of special interest to me, where was Cross Inn?

The Cross Inn at Treguff is in the parish of Llancarfan and earlier issue of the Newsletter has referred to previous inhabitants.

Does anybody know if there was another Cross Inn in Llancarfan?



(Co-ordinator: please can anyone help – I would be very pleased to receive all your comments for publication and would pass them on to Mr Plant. Please remember this is your newsletter – I only co-ordinate the items I receive. Please if you have knowledge of life in Llancarfan, please write your memories – or should you prefer one of our committee could visit and record your memories so they are not lost – as has happened so often in the past.)

--ooOoo--

## **Memories of Trixie Phillips in Llancarfan by Phil Watts**

Trixie took over running the Fox and Hounds in March 1952 (the same year as Ruth and I were married).

At this time it was rare for a lady to be running a public house on her own. Trixie told me her mother thought she had taken a step in the wrong direction and wondered how she would cope with mainly male customers in the Fox and Hounds.

The Fox and Hounds had already become popular while Charlie Bryer was landlord when the emphasis was on darts, table skittles, etc. Trixie started to make changes to encourage female customers. Flowers over the fireplaces and on window sills caused one local customer to enquire “Has someone died”? Trixie employed some of the retired local residents to keep the pub ‘spick and span’. Names that readily come to mind are Billy Jenkins, Bill Rees, Mabel Liscombe and Olwyn Hopkins.

Norman Hardy the owner of Bindles Ballroom, The Knap, Barry bought the Fox and Hounds so that he could use the licence to supply drinks at the ballroom. At this time Trixie was manageress of Bindles; Trixie’s move to the Fox was a further strengthening of the ties between the Fox and Bindles. So it was a natural progress for some of Bindles bar staff to find themselves serving drinks at the Fox.

One of the first to make the Llancarfan transfer was Betty Hill. She would work a day shift at Bindles then a night shift at the Fox, usually coming down on the village bus, but sometimes coming on her bike! Other names to remember are Eileen Dudley, Doreen Clode, Doris Robson, Margaret Beddew and Margaret Martin.

As the pub became more popular, so it brought more problems to the village; for instance where to park the customers cars. The result was on a busy night, many cars were parked around the village, very often to the displeasure of the locals.

The original farm building and surrounding wall were knocked down to create a car park, the shape of the park made it difficult to park. Glyn Llewellyn used to organise the comings and goings. Quote – “Left hand down, straighten up, Good Night, Sir, Thanks You”. Customers sometimes drove away with Glyn’s pint on the top of the car.

Car park duties were passed on to local boys; Peter Badcock, Gwilym Phillips and Russell Watts wishing to earn a ‘bob’ or two. They combined car park duties with returning empty drinks bottles to their crates and restocking the bar shelves.

When one remembers Trixie you have to recall how she ran the Fox. She had a large team of people with specific roles to play. She was a great one for systems, cleanliness, and orderliness. When she had an idea for improvement, she had the ability to find the right person to bring it to fruition.

Harry Hughes was one of these people. He was involved in building operations, he put things right when they went wrong. She never had to send for him as he was a loyal customer. He was in the bar every night. Other people who needed Harry’s services knew where to find him as well. Good for trade, she designed a part of the pub to be called Harry’s Bar.

A big feature of Trixie's pub management was the introduction of snacks and toasties made in the Fox kitchen. She also introduced iced drinks before coolers were available. She liked to see drinks decorated with cherries, lemon, orange, etc. She made 'shandies' popular for men, particularly after the introduction of the breathalyser.

The lounge bar at the Fox was part of her living quarters until she thought it could accommodate more customers if she lived somewhere else. She told me she was grateful to Gwynne Liscombe telling her that Mr Lee was moving to Barry and wished to sell the Old Parsonage. She bought the Old Parsonage and lived there until 1985 when she moved to Crossways, Cowbridge.

While living at the Old Parsonage Glyn Llewellyn and Trixie turned the Fox from being a popular country pub to a popular pub and restaurant, seating 40 and later 80, when the Whitton room was added.

To run the restaurant she found the right man again in Edgar Balchin. Together they made the Fox and Hounds famous throughout South Wales. Wedding receptions became popular, as it was very convenient to have the ancient church of St Cadoc's next door.

We who lived in Llancarfan watched Trixie change the shape and character of the Fox and Hounds and by so doing she changed the village as well. From 1952 through the 50s, 60s, and 70s it was like a growing up period with relations maturing as time went on. We locals admired her perseverance to get what she wanted.

I have already named Harry Hughes, Glyn Llewellyn and Edgar Balchin as being the right people for the Fox, another one was Bill Hill. For a number of years Bill and Betty were manager and manageress; Bill was also the baker and cellarman for the Fox.

The people that Trixie initially employed usually became a friend, as did so many of her customers. She set a high standard of living

and entertaining. She always took an on-going interest in the lives of the many youngsters she employed. She was always keen to know how they were doing at college, how many children they had, where they were now living, questions that showed she really cared, a feeling that was mutual because training at the Fox was considered to be good training.

Trixie was an avid reader; she often said that a good holiday was a good hotel and a good supply of books.

I remember Trixie as a hard working conscientious, successful business woman that, through her endeavours and foresight, changed Llancarfan via the Fox and Hounds from an ordinary country pub in an ordinary village to a most desirable place to live.

---

I will remember her as a true friend, and I am grateful for all that she did for Ruth and myself.

There was the first of many favours to Ruth and myself from Trixie, was on our wedding morning she sent Glyn Llewellyn up to Abernant with a Pimms No. 1 for Ruth.

Ruth took Christmas table meal bookings for the pub from the beginning, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

In later years when Trixie's eyesight was failing she had her regular slots for telephone calls. On these calls she often told me that at the age of over 90 she had lived too long and wished she could pass on her good health to younger people less fortunate; she had Ruth in mind at this time.

I will miss her and so will her many friends.

--ooOoo--

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you had left open

## **William Morgan, Treguff 1820s enquiry by R E Davies via John Etherington**

Yesterday I received a letter from R E Davies of Fairwater, Cardiff, enquiring about his (?) great, great grandfather whose name was William Morgan, and a tenant farmer at Treguff in 1820s.

Mr Davies sent a photocopy of a page from the Llancarfan Baptismal Register with two entries. One was for “Ann, infant daughter of William and Mary Morgan” and the other was for “Elizabeth, daughter of William and Mary Morgan” and annotated “Received into the Congregation”. Ceremony was performed by E P Thomas, Curate. Both entries were dated August 30, 1829.

John Etherington has replied to Mr Davies:

“I have previously seen the Morgan entries in the Baptismal Register but sadly, can add no more.

In case you don't know, Treguff Farm was at that time a property of the Dean and Chapter of St Peter's, Gloucester, so it might well be worth contacting the Gloucester Cathedral archive in case any tenancy documents are still extant (contact details then given)”.

It is just possible that if the Morgan family remained in the area some older members of the Society might know more, so a note in the Newsletter might just help.

--ooOoo--

## **A Message For Us All by Mike Crosta**

As a member of the Lions of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, we help every month at the Cowbridge Monday Gateway Club, which comes under MENCAP. It is run for the benefit of young and older males and females coping with the disabilities of mental and physical handicap. Meeting in a church hall, entertainment or participating events are set up

for them. In spite of their sometimes-severe handicaps there is always enthusiastic involvement. Sometimes there are outside trips to places such as Warren Mill Farm. A big success was when the Lions arranged for 3 members to travel to Swindon to the local Lions special games for handicapped people. It was immensely enjoyable for them to be able to participate in what might just be simple events, but all received a medal that I understand they were reluctant to take off. It was inspiring and rewarding for all helpers involved.

Recently at the club, two young people from Cardiff, Laura and Owen, both still in university, gave up their time one evening to sing at the club. They also brought a lot of simple instruments for everybody to make a noise with, helpers included – maracas, triangles, bongo drums, etc. The members had a great time, singing and dancing, but I think we were all impressed by how naturally kind and nice both Laura and Owen were, so easily hugging members who embraced them.

The lesson, I believe, is to remember that there are many nice young people still in this country, although these two could take some beating.

--ooOoo--

## **A Tale of Pheasants Or the Pheasant's Tail by Jean Hunt**

The colourful cock pheasant, with his brilliant plumage, is a familiar sight in fields and gardens in and around Llancarfan. Sometimes he may be seen strutting boldly across roads and lanes with the drabber hen pheasant scuttling shyly in the background. Years ago, Tom spotted an unfortunate cock pheasant lying injured at the edge of the Five Mile Lane, and after parking the car in a lay-by, he hurried to put the unfortunate bird out of its misery. However, the pheasant had breathed its last by the time he reached it – yet another mortality on this infamous road! The body

was virtually unmarked, so Tom, thinking of a fine pheasant dinner, brought the bird home for the pot.

My father had come down to Wales from Scotland for a holiday and his dire mutterings about “myxomatosis” put a considerable damper on Tom’s culinary ambitions despite our firm assurances that pheasants are not related to rabbits! My father shook his head gloomily, unconvinced. Somewhere in my portfolio I have a watercolour sketch of the bird, and I have an uncomfortable recollection of an unsuccessful roast pheasant dish (my father having returned to Edinburgh). In those days we hadn’t discovered Delia Smith, and also I remember feeling guilty about eating my “model”.

Some years later, my neighbour knocked at our door to show me a pheasant lying on the low wall between our two bungalows – the wall that had once formed the base of Harry Hughes’ carpenter’s shop. The pheasant was quite unfazed by our approach, and lay there completely at ease looking distinctly “pie-eyed”. We concluded that he had dined too well on fermented berries and was in a state of blissful inebriation!

“I wonder what pheasant stuffed with elderberries tastes like?” my neighbour murmured, but we decided that it would be distinctly unsporting – not “playing the game” – to take advantage of a happily tipsy game bird!!

My next encounter with pheasants was when two cock pheasants performed a sort of “two step” on the gravel path outside our sitting room window. Forwards and backwards they approached and retreated from one another, touching beaks lightly as they approached, then dancing backward again. We wondered what strange ritual this could be, when all of a sudden they flew at one another, clashing beaks and feathers flying! The defeated pheasant finally withdrew with wounded dignity, shaking his tail defiantly and

depositing his contemptuous “visiting card” on the garden wall!

However, the pheasant who came to our door some months ago was such a character that I christened him “Ferdy”. He came right up to our doorstep calling harshly and demandingly for attention, and when we produced peanuts he gobbled them down at tremendous speed, pausing between gulps to make a soft, appreciative cooing sound. At this first meeting he was a sorry sight as he had lost his tail feathers and his plumage was tattered. He came regularly to our door even feeding from our hand for some weeks, then suddenly his visits stopped. A few weeks ago he re-appeared, squawking loudly and sporting a fine new tail and glossy plumage, but with a swollen and seemingly blind right eye which made it difficult for him to spot objects at ground level including peanuts. So Tom fed him lovingly with bread and dripping, and he (Ferdy not Tom!) spent hours sunning himself in our garden sheltered by the hedge. Have you ever seen a pheasant up a tree? One day we looked up and there was Ferdy balanced on the topmost branch of a leafless tree, his tail spread aloft triumphantly!

His eyesight seemingly recovered, he left us for pastures new. Perhaps he is visiting you at this very moment.

--ooOoo--

### **Society Renewal of Subscription by Sue Taylor (Treasurer)**

For those who are sitting with pens poised to write a cheque for subscriptions usually due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, we have some really good news!!!

The Society’s accounting year has now been changed to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April as from 2008, so subs will not be due until then. A reminder will be sent out in the Newsletter prior to that date.

--ooOoo--

## **Society's Annual Dinner by Gwyneth Plows**

Our annual Dinner was held at Cottrell Park Golf Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, and was attended by 38 members (not a great turn-out – a lot of people being away), but very nice to catch up with old friends. The meal wasn't too good but the staff were very pleasant and helpful.

Phil Watts presented the Ruth Watts shield to Philip Gammon who accepted on behalf of J. Gammon, his grandson and his nephew.

Alan, our Vice Chairman presided over the event and was thanked for all his hard work, especially always assisting at all functions with the tables (that are too heavy for us ladies!!). His wife, Sue, was presented with a bouquet and thanked for her work as treasurer.

If anyone has any ideas for a different venue next September – please let any member of the committee know.

--ooOoo--

## **The Big Band Night by Rhodi Grey**

On Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> the Big Bank Sound came to Llancarfan. In a joint venture with the LDCA and the school PTA; CYJO, the Cardiff and Vale Music Service Youth Orchestra, thrilled the full house in the Community Hall.

With their repertoire of standards from the likes of Duke Ellington, Glen Miller and Count Basie, to modern hits from The Pink Panther, James Bond themes, and Watermelon Man, they had the audience dancing in the aisles and calling for more, before the night was out.

The band of sixteen youngsters aged between 11 and 18 years was formed four years ago and has already completed a successful tour to Chicago and featured in the Festival of Welsh

Male Voice Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this year.

Julie Potter and the ladies of the village prepared magnificent platters of cheeses, pates, Chinese and Indian snacks, salads and dips, laid out on each of the ten tables to complement the wines and spirits sold at the bar by Alan Taylor and John Angell.

The night proved to be a great success, raising well over £500; but, more important, it was good to see so many people, from Llancarfan and the neighbourhood, enjoying themselves and sharing in the community spirit.

--ooOoo--

## **Fox & Hounds – Llancarfan**

### ***Christmas Lunch Menu – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.***

Monday – Saturday (not Christmas Day)

3 course meal – choice of Starter:

Cream of Pumpkin and Butternut Squash Soup, Glamorgan Sausage, Smooth Duck Liver Parfait, Roulade of Smoked Salmon, Mascarpone vinaigrette.

Main courses, will be served with a panache of fresh vegetables:

Roast Turkey, Salmon en coute, Y Fenni Souffle, Port Tenderloin wrapped in Parma Ham, Chargrilled Welsh Black Sirloin Steak.

Dessert:

Chocolate Panna Cotta, Fox & Hounds Christmas Pudding, Blackcurrant Delice, Marinated seasonal Fruits.

£15.95 per person

### ***Christmas Dinner Menu: choice of:***

Five starters – as above plus Tian of Lobster and Prawns;

Six main courses, all served with a panache of fresh seasonal vegetables, as above plus Saddle of Lamb;

and five desserts, as above plus Selection of Welsh Cheeses..

£23.95 per person

Coffee and homemade petite fours £2.00 per person.

Maximum in any party 24 people.

Phone 01446 781287 to book a table.

Please phone or call in for a full menu.

## **Christmas Church Services**

### **St Cadoc's, Llancarfan**

Christingel	Wed. 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	2.30pm
Carol Service	Sun. 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec.	7.30pm
Crib Service	Mon. 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	3.30pm
Christmas Eve	Mon. 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	11.30pm
		Midnight Mass

### **St Itltyd's, Llantrithyd**

Carol Service	Thurs. 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	7.00pm
Christmas Day	Tues. 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.15am
	Holy Communion	

### **St Mary's, Penmark**

Christmas Day	Tues. 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9.00am
	Holy Communion	